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NOV - 2 1999



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23 October, 1999

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
New York, NY 10021-6399

Dear Josh,

Thank you for your note. You probably don't remember, but we met several times, long ago (I was a grad student of Roger Stanier's in the late 60's, and came down to Stanford on several occasions). I have been at Davis since 1970, and for the last ten years or more my research has focused exclusively on biological weapons history and control. My major effort in the latter arena has been to address the issue of how to approach the analysis of a suspicious outbreak to determine if it is likely to be deliberate. I have a chapter on this in a book edited by Ray Zilinskas (*Biological Warfare*) that is just out. If you are interested, I can send you other publications on this topic. I also have an unpublished ms on the alleged BW at the siege of Caffa (in which I go into much more detail than I was able to in the chapter in the Geissler and Moon volume); JAMA has indicated interest in publishing this, although I will have to cut it quite a bit for them.

The citation from the Britannica re Louis XIV and biological warfare is not one of which I was aware; thank you for it. There are scattered other similar mentions that I did not include in my review, because they are too sketchy to evaluate. For instance, Cardinale de Granvelle, in a 1566 letter to the King of Spain, reports a rumor that the Duke of Savoy captured several agents of Geneva spreading a "plague ointment" where the king's troops would pass. And Mary McCarthy, in *Venice Observed*, claims that in 1649 a Venetian doctor concocted a "plague quintessence" to be spread on goods to be sold to the Turks (he was said to have then been jailed to insure he didn't tell anyone else of his invention). I am happy to add Louis

XIV to my list of these allegations; someday, if I gather enough of them, it might be worth trying to analyze them.

Again, thanks for the citation, and please don't hesitate to contact me again if I can in return provide anything of interest to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Wheelis